are among the 13 sites recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage sites;

(b) whether the number of tourists that visit Ellora and Ajanta caves every year is less as compared to Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra due to lack of facilities and proper publicity;

(c) whether Aurangabad does not have a modern airport, nor the necessary infrastructural facilities for tourism at Ajanta and Ellora cave sites;

(d) if so, whether Government of Maharashtra have submitted any plan to the Central Government to preserve the caves and to improve its surroundings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) A Loan Agreement has been signed by the Government of India and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan on 9th January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanata and Ellora. The total cost of the project is 4406 million Japanese Yen, out of which an amount 3.745 million Japanese Yen would be made available for augmentation of infrastructure facilities and preservation and conservation of Ajanata and Ellora. The project includes modernisation of Aurangabad airport. Department of Tourism has brought out a brochure on Ajanta and Ellora which has been widely circulated both in India and abroad. Under the project, the State Government would be strengthening their publicity and marketing support.

Upgrading the Jabalpur Air Strip

1104. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far to upgrade the Jabalpur air strip and to provide for landing and take off facilities for Boeing aircraft; and

(b) by what time Jabalpur is likely to be placed on the air map of India again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (a) and (b) There are plans to extend the runway of Jabalpur (Dumna) airport to 6500 to make it suitable for Boeing-737 operations. Extension of runway and new terminal building and other associated facilities will cost about Rs. 9.00 crores. The work will commence after the Government of Madhya Pradesh hand over 29 acres of land required for the project.

Aircraft with Indian Airlines and Air India

1105. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to roll over aircraft in use with Indian Airlines and Air India after a shorter period of service than earlier contemplated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the same has been approved in respect of any of the wto airlines and what is the precies decision of Government: and

(d) what is the number of aircraft in service that would be required to be rolled out of performance as a result of the new guidelines?